



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**

Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

Jan. 17, 2023

Updates

Drug Overdose Trends from 2022

Early findings suggest that 2022 may have marked a turning point in the United States' opioid epidemic. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) demonstrate that drug overdose deaths peaked in March 2022, mostly due to fentanyl. The CDC announced in late 2022 that the average life expectancy in the United States dropped to its lowest point in two decades, in part because of drug overdoses and the increasing danger of street drugs.

Despite the grim statistics, 2022 was a pivotal year for policy change. Policymakers sought to address stigma and how to limit barriers to healthcare for individuals with substance use disorder. Naloxone, the life-saving opioid reversal drug, is now readily available over the counter at pharmacies, no prescription necessary. In 2022, corporations agreed to pay for the opioid crisis. AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, CVS, Johnson & Johnson, and Walmart, all reached settlements that will go back to states and counties. Funds will support harm reduction efforts, prevention programs, and treatment.

For a more detailed recap on 2022, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).

Indiana Pregnancy Promise Program Annual Report

The Indiana Pregnancy Promise Program is a free, voluntary program for pregnant Medicaid members who use opioids or have used opioids in the past. This program is critical for Indiana residents because opioid use during pregnancy is increasing in Indiana, and treatment of opioid use disorder during pregnancy is highly effective.

In its annual report, the Indiana Pregnancy Promise Program presents important statistics about enrollment and service utilization. 64% of program participants enrolled during the prenatal period, and 158 partner organizations were engaged in the program. About 78% of participants received OUD treatment services, and 72% received medication for OUD. To view the full report, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).



Volunteers Needed for Interview Study

Researchers and practitioners at Indiana University and Overdose Lifeline, Inc. are looking for people who can complete a one-hour interview or two-hour focus group interview on inequitable opioid overdose education and response in Black Indianapolis communities. You may qualify if you are 18 years of age or older and if you are a Black Indianapolis resident living in ZIP codes 46202, 46205, or 46208. You will receive a \$50 gift card for each hour of the interviews. Please email Dr. Dong-Chul Seo or Charlotte Crabtree if you are interested in participating.

Upcoming Events

Building Bridges Between Harm Reduction and Treatment for People with SUD

10-11:30 a.m. EST, Jan. 19

Hosted by: Northeast & Caribbean ATTC

In recent years, there has been growing support for a harm reduction approach to drug policy, which emphasizes reducing some of the negative consequences associated with drug use through a variety of public health measures. Historically, this approach has been a core value of syringe service programs, expanding into other settings particularly as rising overdose deaths have made educating people about overdose risks and distributing naloxone more urgent.

This two-part workshop will explore how harm reduction is evolving, different interpretations of what harm reduction is (or isn't), and ways to build bridges between harm reduction services and the continuum of care for people who use drugs. Discussion topics will include how harm reduction providers are offering or connecting participants to various types of treatment, broadly defined, and how treatment providers are incorporating harm reduction strategies into their services.

To reserve your spot, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).

Public Health Day: Investing in Hoosier Lives

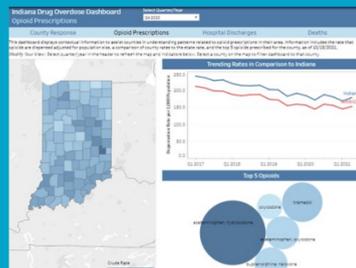
11 a.m.-1 p.m. EST, Jan. 26

Indiana Statehouse North Atrium

Please join us and show your support for public health in Indiana by wearing blue and gold!

Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard

Please visit the [Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard](#), where you will find data from 2017 up to provisional data for 2021. In this dashboard, you will find data regarding opioid prescriptions, hospital discharges, and drug-related deaths. You can use this dashboard to explore overdose data at the county and state levels.



To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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